



National Institute  
of Nursing Research



*Advancing Science, Improving Lives*

# Midcareer Technical Workshop

## Path to a Sustained Program of Research



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# Module I: Establish & Sustain POR

- Definition
- Hallmarks
- Guideposts (Benchmarks)
- Strategies to Maintain POR Momentum
- Value of Program Director Guidance
- **Competing Application Decision**
- Interview with senior scientist



# Competing Application Decision: Make Best Use of Annual Progress Reports

- Non-Competing Continuation Progress Reports can position you for a successful renewal
- Standard format, two page limit
  - A. Specific Aims: No change without discussion with PD—will be carefully assessed
  - B. Any results
  - C. Significance and health impact of findings
  - D. Plans for coming year
    - 1. Potential challenges
    - 2. Plans to address



# Progress Report (Cont.)

- Review PREVIOUS year's annual report before drafting current one
- Describe how you addressed any identified problems
- Report current status



# Plan for Continuous Funding Stream

- Develop additional grant support as safety net
  - Ideally two or more concurrent grants
  - Offset of 2 or 3 years
- Consider alternative sources of funding
  - NIH not only source—also state/local/VA
  - Professional organizations—AWHONN/ONS
  - Private foundations—BC/BS, IAF other global



# Plan for Continuous Funding Stream

- Plan to submit Competing Continuation EARLY
- Avoid gap in funding by submission 18-24 months before end of funding
  - Time for resubmission prior to project end
  - Capacity to maintain project staff
- **BUT** do not submit early if progress you have made will not be competitive



# Competing Renewal Application Decision

- Determine if project findings justify competing renewal application
- Do results pave way for a research advance?
  - Will proposed project yield vertical step?
  - Or will it just repeat other research?
  - Is this the next logical step in your POR?



# Competing Renewal Application Decision

- Goal: vertical as opposed to horizontal advance of known science
- Is there a potential future translational impact?
- Ideally develop renewal proposal in Year 4
  - Plan timeline accordingly so that key building blocks are available
  - Renewal proposal builds on what has been learned in current project





# Competing Renewal Application Decision

- Discussion with Program Director essential
  - One-two page concept paper
  - Schedule telephone discussion
  - Or face-to-face if in DC or at same meeting
- PD can help assess fit of proposed project with the strategic plan of the Institute
- PD can provide advice about planned timeline or methods



# Competing Renewal Application Decision

- What if results DO NOT SUPPORT further research along this line?
  - Discuss with research team, mentors, other respected scientists in your network
- Remodeling parties with faculty colleagues
- Formal consultation with experts



# Competing Renewal Application Decision

- Do the results direct an alternate path?
- Do emerging unanticipated issues need to be addressed before the initial research question can be answered with sufficient rigor?
- Determine if submitting a new application is wiser course



# Competing Renewal Application Decision

- If period of funding expires, many universities will extend bridge funding
  - Enables continuity of research staff
  - Typically does not support researcher effort



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